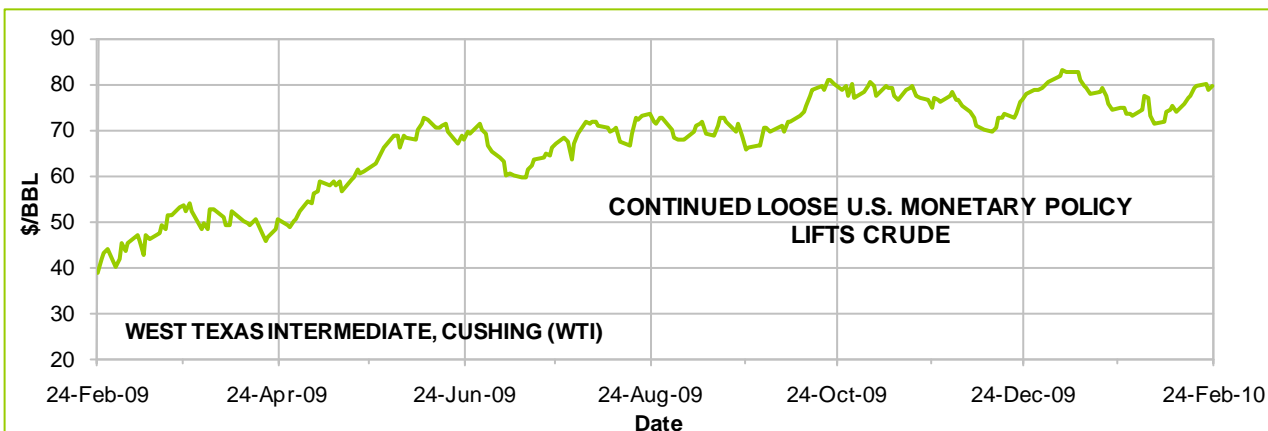


## Crude Oil



A production increase of 0.4% and a 6.3% rise in imports offset the 2.4% increase in refinery inputs as inventories grew by 3.0 million barrels this week. This was 49% larger than the 1.8 million average gain for this time of year and also larger than the expected gain of 1.9 million. Crude stocks are 3.9% below last year but 4.8% above the 5-year average. Current inventory levels are at their second highest level for this date since 1993.

Comments by the Federal Reserve to continue low interest rates weakened the dollar and boosted the stock market, leading to higher crude prices this week. Spot prices rose by \$2.44 this week to \$79.70, \$40.94 (106%) higher than a year ago but 45.1% lower than 2008's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$81.81, up \$2.15 for the week. They are \$34.58 (73.2%) higher than last year but 44.1% below 2008's peak price.

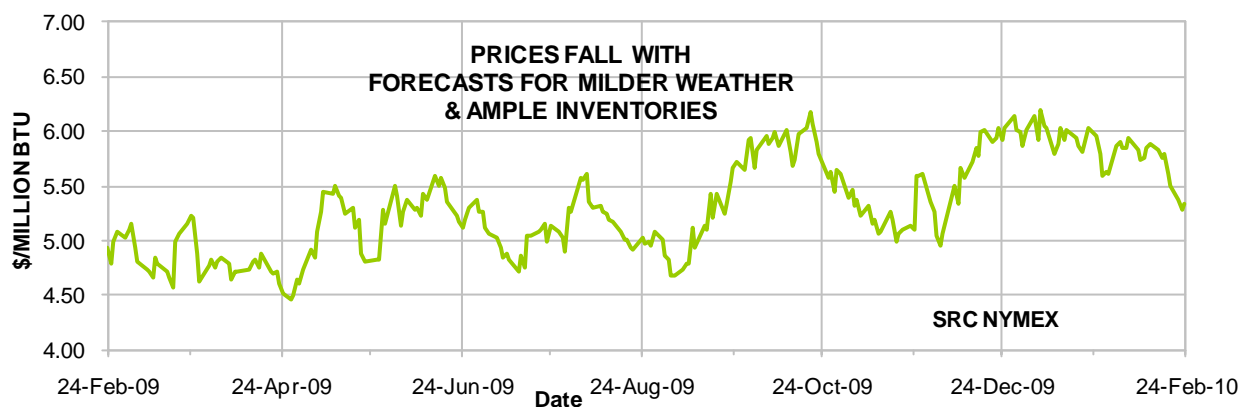


## Natural gas



Natural gas inventories fell by 172 BCF this past week, slightly more than an expected 170 BCF. The latest decline was 30% more than the 5-year average. Cumulative inventory withdrawals for this heating season are running 26% above the 5-year average. At 1,853 BCF, this week's inventory level is 3.0% lower than a year ago and only 0.7% above the five-year average. As an indication of how fast inventories are falling, three weeks ago the corresponding numbers were 9.0% above a year ago and 6.6% above the 5-year average..

Despite winter weather and large inventory draws, prices fell this past week as the end of the heating season nears and supplies remain ample. Futures prices fell by 46.2 cents this past week to \$5.334 per million BTU. This is 8.3% (40.8 cents) higher than a year ago but 60.0% below the 2008 peak. Spot prices were down 56 cents for the week to \$4.910 per million BTU, 16.6% higher than a year ago but 63.1% below their 2008 peak price.

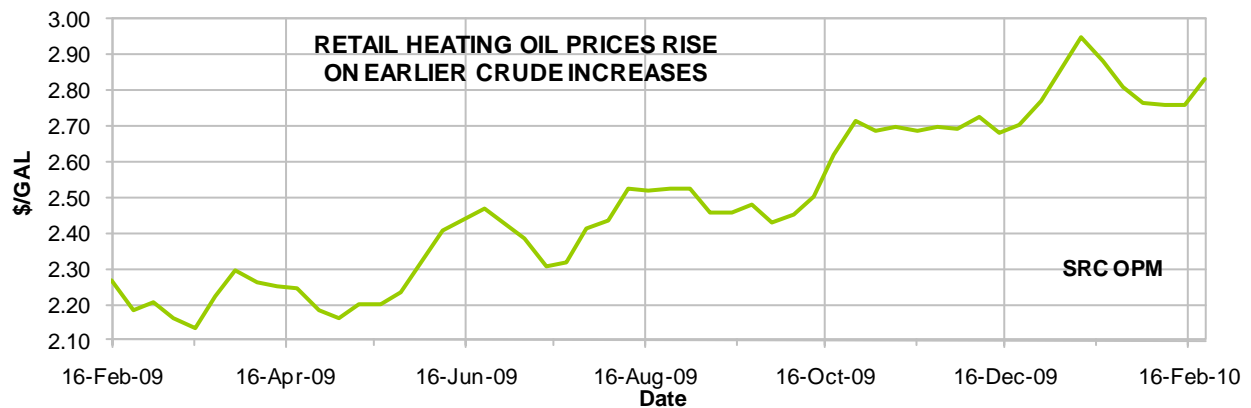


# Heating oil



Distillate stocks fell by only 0.6 million barrels this past week. This was lower than the expected 1.2 million decline and the 5-year average decline of 1.9 million. Inventory levels are still more than ample at 7.9% above last year and 20.0% above the five-year average.

Spot and futures prices followed crude upward this past week as they rose by about 4 cents/gal. The 12 month strip is now at \$2.139/gal, 83.5 cents (64%) higher than a year ago. The spot price is at \$2.032 /gal, 82.3 cents (68%) above last year. Both spot and futures prices are about half of their 2008 peak prices. Because of earlier declines in crude prices, Connecticut retail prices had fallen by 19.3 cents over the previous 4 weeks. With higher crude prices, retail prices rose by 7.6 cents over the past two weeks. At \$2.833/gal, prices are 64.6 cents (30%) above a year ago but are \$1.93 (41%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.399 and the lowest was \$2.400. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
23-Feb-09	2.432	2.799	2.249	2.193	3.490	1.750	2.113	2.299	1.929
8-Feb-10	2.932	3.399	2.500	2.719	2.999	2.469	2.746	3.299	2.519
15-Feb-10	2.942	3.359	2.540	2.724	2.999	2.479	2.804	3.359	2.539
22-Feb-10	3.002	3.399	2.540	2.804	3.049	2.619	2.914	3.399	2.679
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
23-Feb-09	2.021	2.099	1.850	2.189	2.499	1.999	2.001	2.199	1.900
8-Feb-10	2.699	2.799	2.649	2.777	2.999	2.590	2.664	2.849	2.500
15-Feb-10	2.685	2.829	2.599	2.762	2.899	2.590	2.664	2.849	2.560
22-Feb-10	2.803	2.899	2.749	2.827	2.999	2.690	2.729	2.899	2.639
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
23-Feb-09	2.157	2.399	1.759						
8-Feb-10	2.702	2.990	2.399						
15-Feb-10	2.695	2.990	2.440						
22-Feb-10	2.749	2.999	2.400						

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning February 22, 2010. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

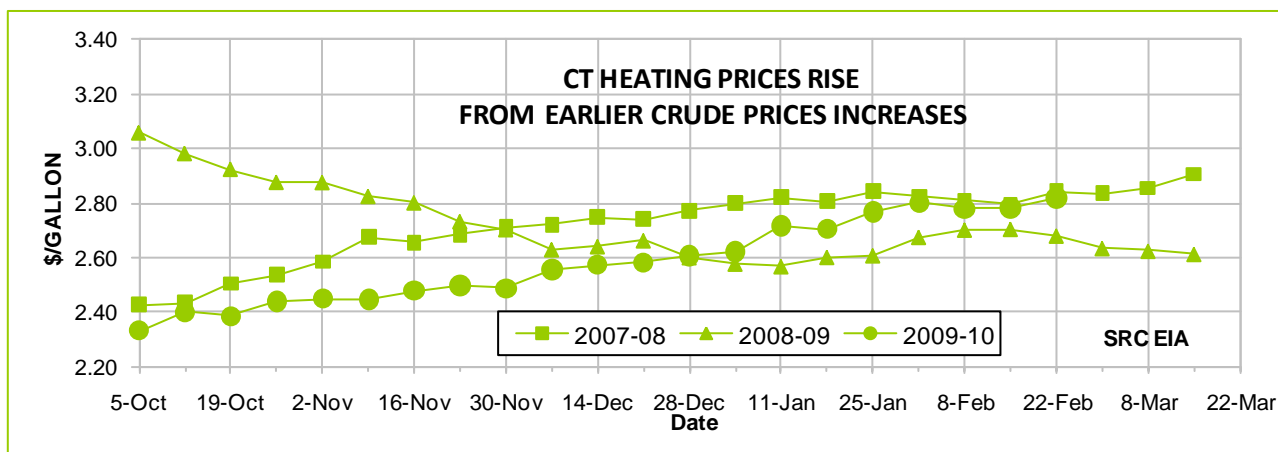
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



Propane inventory levels declined by 2.3 million barrels this past week, somewhat less than the five-year average decline of 2.7 million. Since October 9<sup>th</sup>, inventories have fallen by 45.6 million gallons, 59% greater than the 5-year average decline. Current storage levels now trail last year's levels by 30.7% and they are 23.5% below the five-year average.

Monday's Connecticut retail propane heating price survey showed an average price of \$2.817/gal, 3.6 cents/gal higher than the previous week. Prices are 5.1% (13.7 cents) higher than a year ago but 7.9% (24.0 cents) lower than the peak 2008 price. Propane spot prices followed crude upward, rising by 4.5 cents this past week. At \$1.262 per gallon yesterday, they are 63.7 cents (102%) higher than a year ago but 36.2% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



# Gasoline



Inventories fell by 0.9 million barrels this week in sharp contrast to an expected gain of 0.5 million and 3 times the size of the 5-year average decline of 0.3 million. Inventories levels are 7.1% above last year and 3.4% above the 5-year average. Stocks are at their second highest level for this date since 1993.

Wednesday's spot price was \$2.095/gal, \$1.005 (92.2%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.138/gal, was 95.0 cents (80.0%) higher than a year ago. After falling by 10.6 cents over the previous 4 weeks, Connecticut retail prices rose by 3.1 cents this past week. At \$2.834/gal, retail prices are 82.0 cents (40.7%) higher than a year ago but 35.4% below 2008's peak. While spot prices have risen by 92% over the past year and futures have risen by 80%, Connecticut retail prices have only risen by 41%.

